

HF Happenings 770



Volume 15, Issue 33, the week of 30 October 2017



Special Event Call Sign from the Northern Cape

From 1 to 30 November, the Bo-Karoo Amateur Radio Club will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the commissioning of the Vanderkloof Dam with the special call sign ZS40V DK - QSL via the operator's instructions. As part of these celebrations, the Club is hosting the ZS40V DK Bash at the Sandgat Resort just outside the town of Vanderkloof on Saturday 18 November. The Bash includes the Club AGM, a potjieskos competition and a dance.

The Vanderkloof Dam (originally the PK Le Roux Dam) is situated approximately 130 km downstream from the Gariep Dam and is fed by the Orange River, South Africa's largest river. The dam was commissioned in 1977. Vanderkloof Dam is the second-largest dam in South Africa (in volume) and has the highest dam wall in the country at 108 metres.

The new IOTA website live

The new Islands on the Air website and the software system that will run the IOTA programme in the future are now fully up and running. Users will be redirected from the old site to the new one and can log in using their existing credentials. Go to www.iota-world.org to learn more about the programme.

Rain Affects Signal Strength

There are many places in the developing world that do not have accurate weather monitoring for rainfall. Many of these locations do have cellular phone infrastructure, normally consisting of towers connected to one another via radio links. It turns out that rainfall causes variation in the signal strength of the links between the towers, which can be used to estimate rainfall <https://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21729740-rain-affects-signal-strength-which-means-you-can-measure-it-counting-raindrops>.

Word to the Wise

Stiction - static friction that must be overcome to allow touching materials to move relative to one another. Aluminium parts, such as antenna elements, can exhibit stiction.

Operating Tip

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

November

- 4 – RaDAR Challenge and SDR Workshop in Cape Town
- 5 – PEARS HF Contest
- 11 – Armistice Day
- 12 – Remembrance Sunday
- 18 – ZS40V DK Bash = AGM and Year-End function of the Bo Karoo ARC, Vanderkloof
- 18 - Antique Wireless Association Museum Open Day, Flea market and AGM
- 17 to 19 Cherry Festival, Ficksburg
- 23 - Closing date for December Radio ZS
- 25 - SARL Newbie Sprint; West Rand Flea Market; CTARC End of the Year function
- 25 and 26 - CQ WW DX CW Contest

December

- 1 – start of the YOTA Month; birth of the prophet
- 3 - SARL Digital Contest; Day for Disabled Persons
- 6 – all schools close
- 9 and 10 – ARRL 10 metre contest
- 13 to 20 – Chanukah
- 16 – Day of Reconciliation
- 21 – Summer Solstice
- 24 – Christmas Eve
- 25 – Christmas Day
- 26 – Family Day
- 27 - closing date for January 2018 Radio ZS
- 31 - End of 2017 CQ Marathon and YOTA month; destroy your copy of the 2017 SARL Blue Book.

Choose the Path That Works. When using directional antennas, do not forget to check the alternative paths for stations when you are calling CQ, or if you cannot hear a spotted multiplier when you are searching and pouncing. It can pay to also try non-traditional or skew paths, such as beaming south-of-short-path to reach the EU from the US.

Manipulate ADIF files

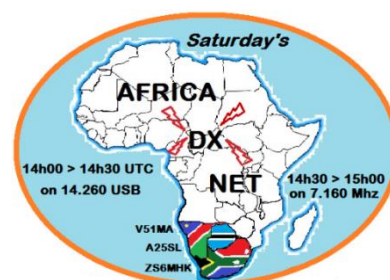
Sometimes it is necessary to manipulate ADIF files, for example when splitting a county-line log entry into separate uploads for each county in preparation for upload to LOTW. Jim, AD1C, has written a utility that fits the bill http://software.ad1c.us/ADIF_Split/index.html.

Keyboards

Keyboards may be getting fancier and smarter, but it seems like the time between when you press a key and when it registers in the logging program might be increasing. Perception may be reality, but someone has actually measured the latency <https://danluu.com/keyboard-latency/>.

African DX

Malawi, 7Q (Update). Members of the EIDX Group (who brought you 9N7EI earlier this year) will be active as 7Q7EI from an ideal location on the shores of Lake Malawi between 21 March and 3 April 2018. There will be a team of 14 operators. Operators mentioned are Dave, EI9FBB, Jeremy, EI5GM, Declan, EI9HQ, Pat, EI9HX, Enda, EI2II, Thos, EI2JD, Alain, EI2KM (F8FUA), Jim, EI4HH, Padraic, EI5IX, Dave, EI4BZ, Peter, EI4GZB and Alain, F5JTV. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They also plan to be in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (24 and 24 March). There are four ways to QSL. QSL via M0OXO, direct or via his OQRS (direct or Bureau). The entire log will not be uploaded to LoTW for possibly up to 3 months. The team now has a web page at <http://www.7q7ei.com>



African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 30 October to 6 November 2017

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 November
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 3 November 2017
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.per-luma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 1 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 November
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
 Multipliers: Each call once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 4 November 2017
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

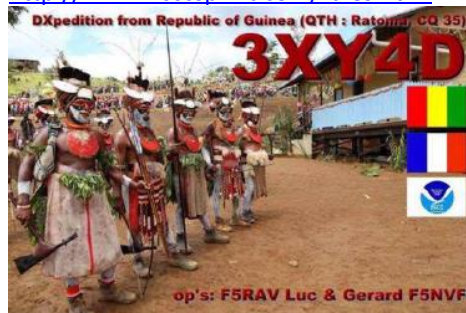
UKEICC 80 m Contest
 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 1 November
 Geographic Focus: Europe
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: SSB
 Bands: 80 m Only
 Classes: Single Op Connected - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unconnected - QRP, low or high
 Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: 4-Character grid square
 QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 1 November 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Upload log at: <http://logs.ukicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.ukicc.com/which-contest/which-contest-ukeicc-80-m-contests-rules>

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest
 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 2 November
 Geographic Focus: Nordic Europe
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital
 Bands: 10 m Only
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square
 QSO Points: (see rules)
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 16 November 2017
 Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 01:45 UTC 3 November
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: RTTY
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 5 November 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 November
 Geographic Focus: North America
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: (see rules)
 Classes: (none)
 Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 5 November 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>



IPARC CW Contest
 06:00 UTC-10:00 UTC 4 November and 14:00 UTC-18:00 UTC 4 November
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op; SWL
 Exchange: USA IPA Members: RST, serial no, "IPA" and state; non-USA IPA Members: RST, serial no and "IPA"; non-IPA Members: RST and serial no
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 5 points per QSO with IPA Member

Multipliers: Each country once per band; Each US state once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 31 December 2017
 E-mail logs to: dj6qq@darc.de
 Mail logs to: Uwe Greggersen, DJ6QQ, Hurststr 9, D-51645 Gummersbach, Germany
 Find rules at: <http://www.iparc.de>

Ukrainian DX Contest

12:00 UTC 4 November to 12:00 UTC 5 November
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: CW, SSB
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op All Band Mixed- CW and SSB - QRP, low or high; Single Op All Band - CW or SSB - low or high; Single Op Single Band Mixed- CW and SSB; Multi-Single Mixed- CW and SSB
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: Ukraine: RS(T) and 2-letter oblast; non-Ukraine: RS(T) and serial no
 Work stations: Once per band per mode (CW/SSB)
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; non-UR Stations: 10 points per QSO with Ukraine
 Multipliers: UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each DXCC/WAE country once per band; non-UR Stations: each Ukraine oblast once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 5 December 2017
 E-mail logs to: urdx@ukr.net
 Web-to-Cabrillo form: http://www.b4h.net/cab-forms/ukrainiandx_cab.php
 Mail logs to: Ukrainian Contest Club HQ, PO Box 4850, Zaporozhye 69118, Ukraine
 Find rules at: <http://urdx.org/rules.php?english>

ARRL Sweepstakes CW Contest

21:00 UTC 4 November to 03:00 UTC 6 November
 Geographic Focus: United States/Canada
 Participation: United States/Canada
 Mode: CW
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unlimited - low or high; Multi-Single - low or high; School Club - College, Technical or Secondary
 Max operating hours: 24 with at least 30 minutes off times
 Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Serial No. and Precedence (Q/A/B/U/M/S) and [your call sign] and Check and ARRL/RAC Section
 Work stations: Once only
 QSO Points: 2 points per QSO
 Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC section and VE NT once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC November 11, 2017
 E-mail logs to: (none)
 Upload log at: <http://contest-log-submission.arrrl.org>
 Web-to-Cabrillo form: http://www.b4h.net/cab-forms/arrlsscw_cab3.php
 Mail logs to: November SS CW, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
 Find rules at: <http://www.arrrl.org/sweepstakes>

IPARC SSB Contest

06:00 - 10:00 UTC 5 November and 14:00 - 18:00 UTC 5 November
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: SSB
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single; SWL
 Exchange: USA IPA Members: RS, serial no, "IPA" and state; non-USA IPA Members: RS, serial no and "IPA"
 non-IPA Members: RS and serial no
 Work stations: Once per band
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 5 points per QSO with IPA Member
 Multipliers: Each country once per band; Each US state once per band
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
 Submit logs by: 31 December 2017
 E-mail logs to: dj6qq@darc.de
 Mail logs to: Uwe Greggersen, DJ6QQ, Hurststr 9, D-51645 Gummersbach, Germany
 Find rules at: <http://www.iparc.de>



EANET Sprint
 08:00 - 12:00 UTC 5 November

Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Mode: Any
 Bands: Any
 Classes: Individual Spain or Non-Spain; Club Spain or Non-Spain- member or friend
 Exchange: RS(T)
 Work stations: Once
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with an individual; 3 points per QSO with a friend radio club; 5 points per QSO with a member radio club
 Multipliers: Each ISO 3166-1 country once; Each continent once
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total countries x total continents
 Submit logs by: 19 November 2017
 E-mail logs to: eanet-sprint@fediea.org
 Mail logs to: (none)
 Find rules at: <http://fediea.org/news/?news=20171105>

High Speed Club CW Contest
 09:00 - 11:00 UTC 5 November and 15:00 - 17:00 UTC 5 November
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide
 Participation: Worldwide
 Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
 Classes: HSC Members; Non-Members; QRP; SWL
 Max power: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
 Exchange: Members: RST and HSC no; non-Members: RST and "NM"
 Work stations: Once per band per period
 QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with a HSC member; 1 points per QSO with a non-member
 Multipliers: (none)
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
 Submit logs by: 26 November 2017
 E-mail logs to: hsc.contest.manager@gmail.com
 Mail logs to: Jorg Hahn, PA1MUC, Crocusstraat 1, NL 2252 XH Voorschoten, Netherlands
 Find rules at: <http://www.highspeedclub.org/>



Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 November
 QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 8 November
 Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 November
 CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 November
 NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 01:45 UTC 10 November
 QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 10 November
 NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 November
 WAE DX RTTY Contest, 00:00 UTC 11 November to 23:59 UTC 12 November
 10-10 International Autumn Digital Contest, 00:01 UTC 11 November to 23:59 UTC 12 November
 JIDX Phone Contest, 07:00 UTC 11 November to 13:00 UTC 12 November
 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 11 November to 24:00 UTC 12 November
 OK/OM DX Contest, CW, 12:00 UTC 11 November to 12:00 UTC 12 November
 Kentucky QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 11 November to 02:00 UTC 12 November
 CQ-WE Contest, 19:00 - 23:00 UTC 11 November (CW/Digital) and 01:00 - 05:00 UTC (Phone) and 19:00 - 23:00 UTC 12 November (Phone) and 01:00 - 05:00 UTC 13 November (CW/Digital)
 North American SSB Sprint Contest, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 12 November
 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 13 November
 RSGB 80 m Autumn Series, Data, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 13 November

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter